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[For Notices of Births, Marriages, Deaths, &c., see page 6.]

SUMMARY.

Japan is concentrating at many points in Korea for an advance on the Yen-ki.

The Russian steamer *Sampari* was sunk in the Chonmienki fight.

We-hai-wei was not, as reported, used as a base for the torpedo boats which attacked Port Arthur.

It is reported that at the Port Arthur approach the Japanese fleet when it approached used Russian signals.

Admiral Alexeoff states that the *Cerberus* and the *Pallada*, which were put out of action, have been taken into the inner harbour at Port Arthur.

Admiral Alexeoff says that the repairing of the damaged vessel is work of complicated nature, and is being done under difficult circumstances.

Japan has allowed the survivors of the *Wang-ki* to proceed to Shanghai on parole.

Russia has chartered two of the Manzani line of steamers.

The Carl Menell has sailed for Vladivostok with guns, arms, and ammunition.

In addressing a despatch from the Council of the Empire the Czar said he hoped that justice would emerge from her grievous trial with honour.

The report that the *China* is sending Boxes to Manchuria is not confirmed.

The Khedive has refused to allow a Russian telegrapher to work who was injured at Port Said to dock for repair at Suez.

Admiral Alexeoff reports that the majority of the Russians who were wounded at Port Arthur belonged to the *Pallada*.

He also says that some of the men were wounded while the extra vigilance watch was kept by the Russians at night prior to the attack.

When the Japanese fleet appeared there was a special circus performance attended chiefly by naval and military officers.

An official circular from the authorities of the *Xi'an* has application for the use of the Kiel Canal for warships.

During the Humber celebrations at Helmsley the police lowered the flag on the British consulate, but afterwards reinstated it and apologized.

The Liberal candidate has been elected for Mid-Herts, polling 4757 votes against his opponent's 4225.

In Cape Colony 45 Progressives and 45 Bondholders were elected, and there are five more to be filled.

Bian has granted the concession asked by M. Bissell at the instance of the Colonial party.

A message received at the Japanese Consulate in Sydney states that the Port Arthur bombardment lasted 40 minutes.

The Russian ships fed into the harbour.

The Japanese ships were only slightly damaged; four Japanese were killed and 54 others were wounded.

The message adds that the Japanese officers and men behaved with great coolness and with the greatest order in ordinary manoeuvres.

The Russian man-of-war attacked the Japanese merchant ships, *Zembla* and *Naganoura* Maru.The *Naganoura* Maru, a vessel of 1834 tons, was sunk, but the *Zembla* escaped.

The scores in the critical match England v. New South Wales are as follows: England, 192; and six wickets for 235; New South Wales, 222.

Therefore England has a lead of 113 runs, their wickets to fall.

Cotter took three wickets for 66 in the first innings, but dislocated his shoulder whilst fielding.

Knight on Saturday was top scorer for the Englishmen with 75 not out.

Of the New South Wales total Hopkins claimed 52.

Mr. Waddell is of the opinion that the time has come to consider the formation of the State of the Commonwealth.

The State Treasurers practically agreed to embark, under certain conditions, portion of the railway revenue in security for common wealth loans.

The proposal was made to the Treasury Committee, however, that the operation of the Bradson clause should be extended.

The Proprietary Company and the Silverton Tramway Company in regard to freights.

Disastrous bush fires reported from various parts of the country.

Mr. Deakin urges the States to embark upon a combined scheme for the encouragement of immigration.

He points out that other countries spend more in advertising their resources with a view of attracting settlers.

An application is to be made to the Arbitration Court on behalf of the Attorney-General for leave to prosecute the ringleaders of the Terrible strike.

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NEWCASTLE.

THE COAL EXPORT TRADE.

NEWCASTLE, Sunday.
The coal shipped between the State during the week ended yesterday amounted to 42,133 tons of which New Zealand exports, 12,711 tons to foreign ports, the distribution being as follows—Victoria, 36,999; South Australia, 16,112; Western Australia, 1,000; Queensland, 1,000; Tasmania, 1,100; New Zealand, 2,232 ton; Foreign shipments: Chile, 417; Peru, 543; San Francisco, 1198; and Honolulu, 191 tons.

A large amount was put in by the colliers during the fortnight ended yesterday. Full time, which was 11 days, was only the experience of one collier, Mr. J. H. Morris, who worked 10 hours a day.

Mr. Morris worked over like a mother. Other colliers would not work so hard to us.

Mr. Heben Armitage, for example, but he had no time. He had to work 12 hours a day.

BEDROOM TALK.

So much of our time is spent in our bedrooms that their furnishing and arrangement demand careful consideration. Our low prices give every opportunity for doing it both tastefully and well.

COME—it is no trouble to us to show you our enormous stocks.

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which would retain the balance. It is by no means a small sum, and the Commonwealth would receive its one-fourth share of the sum, or an additional £200,000. It will therefore be seen that the Treasurers have made very substantial progress towards a settlement.

(Part of the above message appeared in portion of Saturday's issue.)

THE PRIME MINISTER'S VIEWS.

SATISFACTION WITH THE RESULTS.

The Prime Minister, in speaking of the work of the Treasurers, said: "I am satisfied that the work they have done is creditable to the Commonwealth. They have power and opportunity to proceed with the work which was placed before them. It was felt that a severe blow had been struck at a work that was regarded by many people as a huge blunder. It was entered upon in the year 1877, and bequeathed from Government to Government as a work that should be carried out without inquiry into its usefulness. When a year and a half ago such a gale had struck the coast of the Great Barrier, it was the task of the Commonwealth, combined with the constant drain upon the funds of the Treasury in trying to repair the damage, as well as in keeping up the costly and useless Trial Bay prison close to the breakwater, foredoomed the whole work. This has proved to be the case. As a reformatory for prisoners the Trial Bay prison has been a failure, and the State has been induced to abandon it. It is not surprising that they have been able to advance so far along the road, but it is good promise, will prove a satisfactory agreement in April next."

STATEMENT BY MR. T. WADDELL.

THE "BRADDON BLOTH" SECTION.

CURB ON FEDERAL EXPENDITURE.

"POOLING" STATES' DEBTS.

The full reports sent day by day by the special reporter of the "Herald" respecting the deliberations of the Federal and State Treasurers in Melbourne clearly indicated the views held by the various members of the Commonwealth on the important matters that were discussed.

The Treasurer of this State, Mr. Waddell, returned to Sydney on Saturday morning, and in the course of an interview which "Herald" representative had with that gentleman, he referred at some length to the discussion on the question at the conference.

"The proposals of the Federal Treasurer, Sir George Turner," observed Mr. Waddell, "involved not only the question of determining the wisest course to be followed, but also what the provisions of the Commonwealth Constitution Act would permit to be done. Hence the legal powers at the disposal of the Federal and State Governments had to be kept constantly in view."

It was seen that the proposal that the Commonwealth should take over the debts of the States would involve a recasting of the whole of the financial provisions of the Commonwealth Constitution Act, and would, therefore, involve an extensive discussion before it was possible to arrive at the wisest conclusion.

There was also the question of the delimitation of the powers of the prison, and the starting of the breakwater.

Thus it is learned that the first contract for the latter work was let on June 1, 1877, and that the cost of the work, including the breakwater, was £165,000.

The prisoners having been removed from the Trial Bay establishment and transferred to the Gaol at Rockhampton, the question arose as to what should be done with the prison buildings.

The matter was referred to the Commissioner of Prisons, and Mr. Gibbs, Under-Secretary of State, was called in.

The board having investigated the matter, has submitted to the Government a long report, most of which is taken up with an historical account of the origin of the prison, and the starting of the breakwater.

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The board having investigated the matter, has submitted to the Government a long report, most of which is taken up with an historical account of the origin of the prison, and the starting of the breakwater.

Thus it is learned that the first contract for the latter work was let on June 1, 1877, and that the cost of the work, including the breakwater, was £165,000.

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